

Message Text

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ORIGIN SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 /012 R

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TO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 264477

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: FULLY ARMORED VEHICLE

REF: A/SY/FO MEMO DATED MAY 9, L975

1. SY/T/SP IS SENDING TO MONTEVIDEO A NEW FULLY-ARMORED VEHICLE FOR USE BY COM. THIS VEHICLE HAS BEEN TESTED AND ACCEPTED AT THE CONTRACTORS PLANT IN COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA IN OCTOBER. VEHICLE WAS SHIPPED FROM SAN FRANCISCO ON 10/27/75 VIA FAUSKANGER VOYAGE 544. ETA MONTEVIDEO 12/20/75. INVOICE MAILED TO POST.

2. VEHICLE IS A 1974 CHRYSLER NEW YORKER SEDAN, SERIAL NO. CS41T4C194418, PURCHASE ORDER NO. 2029-490008. WEIGHT APPROXIMATELY 6100 LBS. IT HAS A 440 CID, 4 BBL CARB, ENGINE ADJUSTED TO BURN REGULAR FUEL. WHEREVER POSSIBLE, MECHANICAL SYSTEMS ARE HEAWY HITY. BOTTIHOS AAND TECNK LATCHES CAN BE CONTROLLED WITHIN CAR. TIRES ARE SPECIAL LOAD RANGE "D" (EQUIVALENT TO 8 PLY), AND HAVE STEEL/ RUBBER INNER SAFETY ROLLERS CAPABLE OF PROVIDING LIFT AND

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MANEUVERING CAPABILITY AFTER THE TIRE HAS BEEN SHRED-

DED FROM GRENADE OR WEAPONS FIRE. SIDE AND REAR OPAQUE SURFACES ARE OF CERAMIC ARMOR CAPABLE OF DEFEATING UP TO .30 CAL. MILITARY BALL AMMO (ALSO 7.62 NATO AND 7.62M39 RUSSIAN, SUCH AS FIRED FROM AK-47). SIDE AND REAR

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TRANSPARENT ARMOR IS A GLASS/PLASTIC COMPOSITE ARMOR WHICH WILL ALSO DEFEAT UP TO .30 CAL., BALL AMMO WITH MULTI-HIT CAPABILITY. SOME DISTORTION IS EVIDENT BUT SHOULD NOT HAMPER SAFE OPERATION OF VEHICLE. FUTURE PRODUCTION MODELS WILL BE DISTORTION FREE. THIS WINDSHIELD WILL BE MONITORED BY THIS OFFICE TO FURTHER DETERMINE OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL AND FIELD EFFECTS. A COPY OF THE ACCEPTANCE REPORT WILL BE SENT TO YOUR POST. FLOOR PAN COVERED WITH 12 PLYS OF GLASS REINFORCED PLASTIC (GRP) CAPABLE OF DEFEATING PENETRATION OF FRAGMENTS FROM THE U.S. M-67 GRENADE. GAS TANK CAPABLE OF WITHSTANDING GRENADE ON FRONT AND UNDERNEATH AND 9MM FROM SIDES AND REAR. ROOF CONSISTS OF GRP TO DEFEAT 9MM. FRONT AND BEHIND GRILL REINFORCED WITH 1 1/4 INCH STEEL PIPING AND GRP LOUVRES. ONE OTHER SECURITY SYSTEM OF NOTE IS A FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM INSTALLED IN TRUNK OF VEHICLES. AGENT USED IS FE1301, A GAS WHICH CAN BE DELIVERED UNDER PRESSURE TO NOZZLES PLACED TO FLOOD THE GAS TANK AND ENGINE COMPARTMENT AREAS. THIS SYSTEM CAN BE ACTIVATED MANUALLY BY THE DRIVER (PRESSURE DEVICE PLACED TO LEFT OF WHEEL OR DASH) OR AUTOMATICALLY BY AN ELECTRONIC HEAT SENSING DEVICE. FE-1301 WILL NOT DAMAGE VEHICULAR COMPONENTS OR INJURE OCCUPANTS. SECURITY SYSTEMS HAVE ADDED APPROXIMATELY 1,200 LBS. TO WEIGHT OF CAR, BUT THE HEAVY DUTY SPRINGS AND FRAME SHOULD ABSORB THIS ADDITIONAL WEIGHT ACCEPTABLY. DURING TESTS OF THIS CAR, WE HAVE FOUND THE CAR VERY MANEUVERABLE DURING HIGH SPEED LANE CHANGES ON HIGHWAYS, CORNERS AND HOLDS WELL AT HIGH SPEEDS ON NARROW MOUNTAIN ROADS, STOPS QUICKLY AND WILL ACCELERATE FROM STOP TO 60 MPH IN APPROXIMATELY 12 SEC. OVERALL APPEARANCE OF THIS CAR IS QUITE ELEGANT AND MEETS REPRESENTATIONAL STANDARDS. APPROXIMATE COST OF VEHICLE IS DOL 60,000.

3. ABOVE CAR WILL REMAIN UNDER GENERAL SY OPERATIONAL CONTROL. YOUR POST RECIPIENT OF THIS CAPABILITY BASED ON CONFIDENTIAL

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POSSIBLE THREATS AGAINST COM. IF SUCH THREATS ABATE IN FUTURE, CAR MAY BE SENT TO ANOTHER POST HAVING GREATER RELATIVE NEED. FYI, SY IS BUDGETED TO PROVIDE MAINTENANCE PARTS AND SERVICE FOR FULLY ARMORED CARS. FURTHER DETAILS ON VEHICLES AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS WILL FOLLOW LATER. KISSINGER

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